

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-11 OPIC-03 XMB-02 IGA-02

DOT-00 AGR-05 /147 W

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R 131630Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7791

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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PARIS FOR CIEC DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CIEC, EGEN, CM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT AHIDJO SPEAKS ON CIEC

REF: STATE 20560

1. SUMMARY. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 7, PRESIDENT AHIDJO GAVE CAREFULLY FORMULATED PRESENTATION OF GURC VIEWS ON CIEC. RE ENERGY, AHIDJO CITED NEED WORK FOR PROTECTION OF PURCHASING POWER OF OIL PRODUCERS, DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES (SOLAR, HYDROELECTRIC, ETC.) AND ESTABLISHMENT OF ASSURED PETROLEUM SUPPLIES FOR CONSUMERS. RE RAW MATERIALS, AHIDJO STRESSED REMUNERATIVE PRICES, STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, PROTECTION OF PURCHASING POWER (WITH INDEXATION AS DESIRABLE MEANS), REGULATORY MECHANISMS WITH COMMON FUND FINANCING, INCREASED LOCAL PROCESSING AND BETTER MARKETS FOR EXPORTS OF BASIC PRODUCTS. RE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE, AHIDJO EMPHASIZED INCREASED CAPITAL FLOWS (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE); INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN SOURCES OF CAPITAL, RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY; SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO MSAs; AND CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION FOR LONG-TERM, GRADUAL RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR. AHIDJO'S COMMENTS WERE MODERATE IN TONE BUT FULLY IN LINE WITH THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL PRESS ON FEBRUARY 7 PRINTED TEXT OF "INTERVIEW" IN WHICH PRESIDENT AHIDJO RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING CIEC. SINCE IT APPEARS THAT QUESTIONS WERE SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE AND WRITTEN ANSWERS PREPARED, PRESIDENT'S REPLIES REPRESENT CAREFULLY FORMULATED PRESENTATION OF GURC'S VIEWS. CAMEROON IS MEMBER OF COMMISSIONS ON RAW MATERIALS AND DEVELOPMENT, AND HAS SUPPLIED LDC'S DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF CONFERENCE (AMBROISE FOALEM).

3. IN RESPONSE TO FIRST QUESTION CONCERNING CAMEROON'S ROLE IN CIEC, AHIDJO STATED THAT CAMEROON MUST DEFEND NOT ONLY ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT THOSE OF THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CATEGORY OF STATES WHICH, BECAUSE OF CONSTANT DETERIORATION IN THEIR TERMS OF TRADE, ANACHRONISTIC INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR AND INSUFFICIENT FLOW OF CAPITAL, FEED WORLD GROWTH WITHOUT PARTICIPATING IN IT. HE EXPRESSED PRIDE THAT CAMEROON HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO SUPPLY DEPUTY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WHICH HE SAW AS MARK OF ESTEEM FOR ITS FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON DIALOGUE, CONSULTATION AND TOLERANCE.

4. ASKED WHETHER ABSENCE OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FROM CIEC WOULD HURT ADVENT OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO), AHIDJO LABELLED ABSENCE OF THOSE COUNTRIES AS REGRETTABLE. NOTING THEIR ABSTENTION ALSO FROM UN'S SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, HE EXPRESSED RESPECT FOR THEIR REASONS ADVANCED AS SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES, BUT REMAINED CONVINCED THAT BETTER FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MORE FEASIBLE IF CONSTRUCTED WITH RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS FOR ALL.

5. ASKED WHAT POSITION CAMEROON WOULD TAKE CONCERNING ENERGY CRISIS CONSIDERING ITS POSITION AS PETROLEUM IMPORTER, AHIDJO COMMENTED THAT IT WAS DUE TO PETROLEUM THAT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE WAS ORGANIZED AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES FOR USING THEIR BARGAINING POWER TO OBTAIN BROAD CONSULTATION ON WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. BUT STRUCTURE OF CIEC INDICATED THAT PETROLEUM WOULD NOT BE SINGLE FOCAL POINT. DUE TO PRICE INCREASE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AS WELL AS GENERAL INFLATION, CAMEROON'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY AFFECTED. CIEC MUST FIND WAY TO PROTECT PURCHASING POWER OF ALL PRIMARY MATERIALS PRODUCERS, INCLUDING PETROLEUM PRODUCERS. AT SAME TIME, CIEC MUST SEEK MEANS TO DEVELOP OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY (SOLAR, HYDROELECTRIC, ETC) AND DEVOTE ATTENTION TO PROBLEM OF ASSURED SUPPLIES WHICH ESSENTIAL TO PETROLEUM CONSUMING COUNTRIES. SUMMARIZING HIS ANSWER, AHIDJO STATED THAT SAFEGUARDING PURCHASING POWER OF EXPORT RECEIPTS, ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ENERGY SOURCES, PROVIDING AID TO MSA'S, AND ASSURING SOURCES OF SUPPLY WERE SOME OF MAJOR CIEC GOALS.

6. RE HIS CONCEPTION OF NIEO, AHIDJO STRESSED NEED TO ORGANIZE NEW INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR WHICH WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSITATE STRUCTURAL READJUSTMENTS IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA AND REDEPLOYMENT OF PRODUCTION AND SERVICES TO SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE. SAW THIS AS LONG-TERM WORK DEPENDENT ON CONTINUOUS CONSULTATION AND MUTUAL AWARENESS OF INTERESTS. NOT A QUESTION OF ABRUPT RUPTURE, OF DISORGANIZING SOCIAL BALANCE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. BETTER TO ENCOURAGE JOINT ENTERPRISES ASSOCIATING NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES WITH CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL NETWORKS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE DC'S WITH ASSURED SOURCES OF SUPPLY; LDC'S WITH INDUSTRIALIZATION, BETTER MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND IMPROVED MARKETS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS.

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PARIS FOR CIEC DELEGATION

AHIDJO THEN LISTED FOUR POINTS WHICH COULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS: (A) ESTABLISHMENT OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR BASIC PRODUCTS AND STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS, WITH INDEXATION OF BASIC PRODUCT PRICES ON PRICES OF IMPORTED GOODS DESIRABLE (SOUHAITABLE); (B) CREATION OF INTERNATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR STOCKING AND REGULATING LARGE VARIETY OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND CREATION OF COMMON FUND FOR FINANCING THESE MECHANISMS; (C) ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO ACCELERATE PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN PRIMARY PRODUCT PRODUCER STATES; (D) ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN OBSTACLES TO EXPORTATION OF BASIC PRODUCTS (DIRECT AND INDIRECT TAXATION, MIDDLEMEN BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND FACTORIES, ETC). AHIDJO ALSO CALLED FOR MEASURES TO INTENSIFY FLOW OF CAPITAL TO LDC'S, IE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT, ACCESS TO CAPITAL MARKETS, AND REFORM OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. FINALLY, HE ADVOCATED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON POOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES DISADVANTAGED BY LACK OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, AND THOSE SUFFEREING FROM NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS DROUGHT.

7. ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN OPEC AND POOR LDC'S COMPLEMENTARY TO NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AHIDJO STATED THAT CAMEROON MUST BASICALLY RELY ON ITSELF FOR DEVELOPMENT. DEVELOPMENT MUST BE BY CAMEROONIANS, FOR CAMEROONIANS, USING ALL OF COUNTRY'S RESOURCES, HUMAN AND MATERIAL. EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WAS ONLY SUPPLEMENT TO SELF-DEVELOPMENT. SOLIDARITY WITH THIRD WORLD WAS ACTIVE POLICY AND COULD LEAD TO INCREASED HORIZONTAL DIALOGUE (IE WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCERS) AND/OR TO INCREASED MULTILATERAL ACTIONS INTEGRATING NATURAL RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGIES AND CAPITAL OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES. RECENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY OPEC AT PARIS TO THIS EFFECT WERE SIGNIFICANT.

8. IN FINAL COMMENT, AHIDJO STATED FAILURE AT CIEC WOULD BE DISASTER NOW AND FOR YEARS TO COME. HE SAID THAT, IN EFFECT, CIEC PARTICIPANTS WERE CONDEMNED TO SUCCEED.

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9. GENERAL COMMENT: CAMEROON FUNDAMENTALLY BELIEVES IN OUA AND NON-ALIGNED PHILOSOPHY OF STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY. ITS CONSTANT ADHERENCE TO THIRD WORLD POSITIONS WHILE NOT AGGRESSIVELY SEEKING ANY LEADERSHIP ROLE REFLECTS

ITS APPARENT BELIEF THAT COORDINATED THIRD WORLD
POLITICAL ACTION IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC GOAL OF
DEVELOPMENT. TO SAY THAT CAMEROON AND OTHER LDC'S ACT
CONTRARY, IN PARTICULAR CASES, TO THEIR BEST INTERESTS
MISSES THE BASIC POINT. AS AHIDJO POINTED OUT, WHILE
INCREASED OIL PRICES MIGHT HAVE HURT LDC CONSUMERS,
THIS MOVE BROUGHT POWER FOR ATTAINMENT
OF THEIR LONG-TERM GOAL -- DEVELOPMENT. ON THE OTHER
HAND, DEVELOPMENT, IN CAMEROON, MEANS WORKING WITH EUROPE
AND NORTH AMERICA AND OBTAINING WHAT THEY HAVE TO OFFER.
THEREFORE GURC HAS NO DESIRE TO GET INTO SITUATION
OF CONFRONTATION, AS FINANCE MINISTER YONDO ALSO
EMPHASIZED IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR.
CAMEROON TAKES ITS ROLE IN CIEC SERIOUSLY AND HAS SENT
ITS BEST MEN TO THE CONFERENCE. LIKEWISE, IT WILL TO
BEST OF ITS ABILITY DEFEND INTERESTS OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES
NOT REPRESENTED. IN SUMMARY, CAMEROON CAN BE EXPECTED
TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY IN CIEC WITHOUT ABANDONING BASIC
POSITIONS ON WHICH THIRD WORLD UNITY IS BASED.
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